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Interagency Partners To Hold Bison Open House And Discussion In Bozeman

The current and future management of bison in Montana will be the subject of an open house and discussion to be held in Bozeman in early December.

The public event is being hosted by the five agencies that work under the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). The IBMP is a cooperative plan designed to protect Montana's brucellosis-free status while allowing for the conservation of a viable, wild bison population.

The three-part event is scheduled for December 4, 2007, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., at the Holiday Inn located at 5 Baxter Lane in Bozeman.

The evening begins with an hour-long open house with information stations covering a wide variety of topics related to bison management.

In addition, key personnel from the five IBMP partners will provide a review of the 2006-2007 operations, an overview of plans for the upcoming 2007-2008 season, and an update on the feedback received during last January's open house and workshop.

The evening will conclude with three interactive discussion sessions about bison operations on the ground; brucellosis in Montana; and progress made to date by the IBMP.

The five cooperating agencies operating under the IBMP are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

This will be the eighth winter the IBMP will be used to guide brucellosis risk management actions.

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